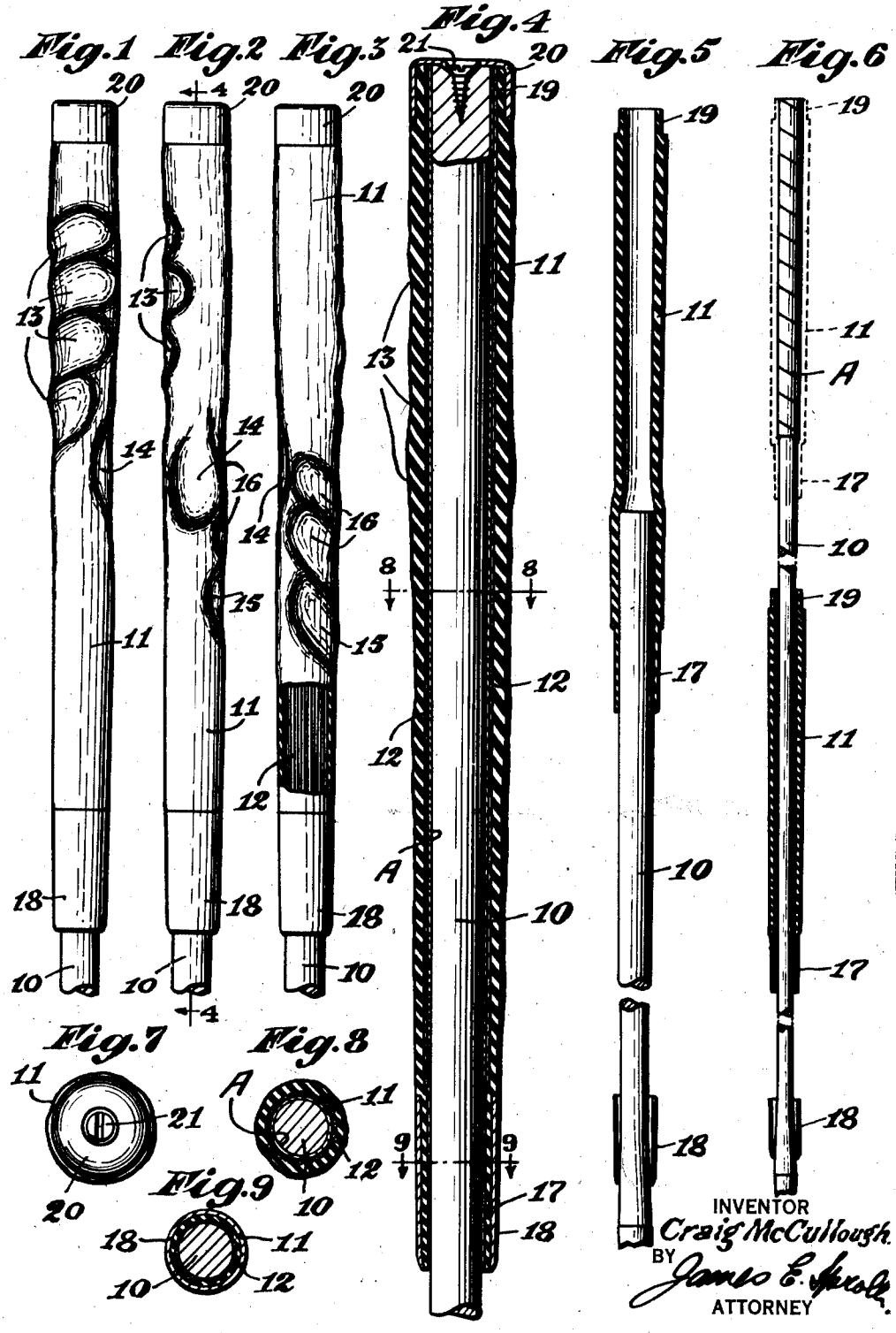
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GOLF CLUB GRIP GUIDE

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# UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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## GOLF-CLUB-GRIP GUIDE.

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This invention relates to golf club grip guides and aims primarily to provide a golf club grip guide preferably fabricated in the shape of a resilient sleeve having the impression of the hands and fingers formed in its peripheral surface, whereby the player must grip or hold the correlated golf club thereof in the correct or approved manner, and which is especially designed for rapid and ready attachment to or detachment from any type of wooden or metallic golf club shaft, and when attached to the selected golf club shaft is positively secured and locked against axial movement thereon or accidental dislodgment therefrom.

Contemplated by the present invention is a golf club grip guide embodying a slightly tapered sleeve of resilient material especially designed to be distended circumferentially and sprung over the slightly tapered handhold portion of its correlated golf club shaft, re-inforcing means embedded within the resilient material of said sleeve for positively preventing longitudinal distention or stretching of the same when subjected to tensile strain, and means to positively lock the sleeve to the shaft in any desired or selected circumferentially adjusted position thereon, all of which are important features and objects of the invention and are to be correlated in the broad aim of enhancing the efficiency of the device for general use.

The above, and additional objects which will hereinafter be more specifically treated are attained by such means as are shown in the accompanying drawings, described in the following specification and then more clearly pointed out in the claims, which are appended hereto and form part of this application.

With reference to the drawings, in which there is illustrated one embodiment of the invention, and throughout the several views of which like characters of reference designate similar parts:

Figures 1, 2 and 3 are rear, side and front elevations, respectively, of a golf club grip guide comprehended by the present invention.

Fig. 4 is a vertical longitudinal section of the same taken through 4—4 of Fig. 2.

Figs. 5 and 6 are views illustrating the approved manner of attaching the grip guide to its correlated golf club.

Fig. 7 is an end elevation of the club, and Figs. 8 and 9 are horizontal transverse sections taken through 8—8 and 9—9, respectively, of Fig. 4.

Beginning the more detailed description of the invention by reference to the drawings, the numeral 10 designates a golf club shaft having a slightly tapered sleeve 11 of resilient material, such as rubber or the like mounted thereon. Longitudinally embedded within the material of the sleeve 11 is a series of re-inforcing cords or strands 12 of inelastic material, which serve and function to positively prevent longitudinal distention or stretching of the sleeve, when the same is subjected to tensile strain, but, which readily permits of circumferential distention of such sleeve, as will be manifest and apparent by referring to Figs. 8 and 9. Impressed or molded in the peripheral or exterior surface of the sleeve 11 adjacent its outer end is a series of circumferentially disposed finger locating and sustaining seats 13 for the left hand of the player, a longitudinally disposed thumb locating and sustaining seat 14 for the left thumb slightly in advance of and substantially at right angles to said series, a circumferentially disposed thumb locating and sustaining seat 15 for the right thumb slightly in advance of and substantially at right angles to the seat 14, and circumferentially disposed finger locating and sustaining seats 16 for the fore and middle fingers of the right hand disposed rearwardly of and in substantial longitudinal alignment with the seat 15. As hereinbefore described the sleeve 11 is circumferentially distendable, which permits of it being readily sprung over the handhold portion of the club shaft 10 and when operatively positioned thereon said sleeve due to its resilient characteristics snugly fits upon and frictionally engages the correlated shaft thereof in such a manner that considerable force must be exerted to move the same axially or circumferentially upon the shaft. However, actual experience has demonstrated the advisability and desirability of positively locking or clamping the sleeve to the shaft and for this purpose the inner terminal portion 17 of the sleeve is exteriorly reduced and a slightly tapered locking ferrule or nipple 18 clamped thereon, which latter compresses the relatively thin resil-

ient walls of the portion 17 upon the shaft, to thereby materially increase the frictional engagement therebetween and positively lock the sleeve 11 to the shaft 10, as will be evident and obvious by referring to Fig. 4. The outer terminal portion 19 of the sleeve 11 is also exteriorly reduced for the reception of a cap 20, which latter is fixedly secured to the end of the club shaft 10 by a screw 21, as shown more clearly in Fig. 4.

The grip guide of the invention is applied to or fitted upon a metallic club shaft by first removing the leather grip and tape and cleaning the handhold portion of the shaft with sandpaper and gasoline. The small end of the ferrule 18 is then slipped over the upper end of the club shaft and allowed to drop to the club head. The handhold portion of the shaft is then dusted with talcum powder or soapstone and a little of the latter is poured into the grip guide and the same shaken well, so that such grip guide will more easily and readily be slipped upon the shaft. The grip guide is then circumferentially distended and sprung over the end of the shaft 10 and is forced downwardly thereon in the manner illustrated in Fig. 4, to a point substantially midway the length of the shaft, whereat, the grip guide is freely rotatable thereon, so that its finger and thumb locating and sustaining seats, may be circumferentially adjusted relative to the golf club head. The ferrule 18 is then elevated and fitted upon the terminal portion 17. Several trial settings of the grip guide upon the shaft are made before a final setting, this is accomplished by pulling the grip guide back upon the shaft 10 to frictionally engage the same therewith. In this connection it will be readily apparent that the further back the grip guide is pulled upon the shaft the more positive will be the clamping action of the ferrule 18 upon the shaft, as such ferrule functions and acts as a rubber lock. In the trial settings if the grip guide is properly fitted upon the shaft 10, such grip guide should readily move back until its outer or larger end is approximately one-half inch beyond the end of the shaft with the ferrule in clamping position thereon, at which time the grip guide is ready for final setting. The final setting of the grip guide is accomplished by first pushing the same together with its ferrule down the shaft to the club head, then spirally wrapping the handhold portion of the club shaft with ordinary electrician's tape, as shown at A in Fig. 6, starting from a point approximately nine inches from the upper end of the shaft, one complete wrap of such tape being first made around the shaft at said point before beginning the spiral wrapping of the same towards the upper end of said shaft, one complete wrap of the tape as described positively prevents creeping of the same when the grip guide is pulled thereover. However, care should be taken not to have the tape wrapping too long, as the end of the latter would come under the ferrule and would prevent the grip guide from being pulled into its proper position. The tape wrapping is then moistened with gasoline and the grip guide pulled thereover into the proper circumferentially adjusted position, whereat such grip guide frictionally engages and substantially adheres to said tape wrapping. The cap 20 is then positioned upon the outer terminal of the grip guide and fixedly secured to the shaft 10 in an obvious manner. To reset, or circumferentially adjust, the grip guide upon its correlated golf club to correct for hooking or slicing or to remove the same therefrom, such grip guide is placed in boiling water for approximately ten minutes to soften the wrapping tape and loosen the grip guide therefrom, whereupon the grip guide is forced down the shaft and turned right or left to make the desired correction and is reset in the manner above described. If the grip guide is to be removed from the shaft, it is necessary to first unwind the tape wrapping therefrom, following which the grip guide can be more easily and quickly pulled off. On steel shafted iron clubs and putters, the length of the tape wrapping is preferably increased, so that the end of the same will come under the ferrule, thus securing a tighter fit for the latter. When the grip guides are applied and fitted to wooden golf club shafts, it has been found necessary and advisable to plane down the handhold portions of the same to the desired size. Further, when applying the tape wrapping to wooden shafts, such wrapping is put on in the reverse order to that of metallic shafts. Again in wooden shafts the ferrule may be dispensed with and as a substitute therefor the inner terminal portions of the grip guides wrapped with ordinary cord.

Actual experience has shown and demonstrated that the grip guides of the present invention are of great assistance to those learning the game, as the configuration of the sleeve 11 is such as to necessitate the player holding the golf club correctly, which is a matter of special importance in acquiring the art of driving. Further, the present grip guide is so constructed as to allow a player complete freedom to swing the golf club around to the extreme position behind, as in driving. The configuration of the sleeve 11 may be arranged for either a one finger overlap, or a two finger overlap as desired. A variety of materials may be used for making the sleeves 11, but I have found that a good grade of rubber molded to shape and vulcanized gives very good results. It is sufficiently firm to give a good control of the club, and yet sufficiently yielding to allow a comfortable and easy grasp.

In the grip guide herein shown and described, which is of an average form, suitable for general use by right-handed players, the formation of the finger and thumb locating and sustaining seats is such as to positively guide and direct the fingers and thumbs into the proper or correct playing position, separates the fingers to prevent chafing therebetween, and materially adds to the security of the hold upon the club.

On a commercial scale it is, of course, impracticable to fabricate the sleeves 11 to suit individual players, and for this reason, such sleeves are designed and constructed to suit average requirements, so that they may be produced cheaply in large quantities. However, in some instances sleeves having the impressions of an individual player's hands may be and are provided when especially desired and required.

Manifestly, therefore, the grip guide of the invention is simple, durable and economical in construction, is rapidly and readily attached and positioned upon or detached from its correlated club shaft and when attached thereto is positively locked thereon against accidental axial dislodgment therefrom, is fabricated in a novel manner so that it cannot be stretched or distended longitudinally when subjected to tensile strain, and when in use will materially increase the effectiveness of the stroke or swing of the player.

While I have herein shown and described my invention with sufficient detail to enable those skilled in the art to understand the mode of construction and principles involved, it is to be understood that there is no intentional limitation herein to the specific form and precise details of construction herein shown and described, except, as expressly defined by the appended claims, and that various modifications of said construction may be resorted to without departing from the invention, or the benefits derivable therefrom. I also desire to have it understood that certain features of the invention herein disclosed may be employed in other combinations than those herein shown.

Having thus fully described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. A grip guide for a golf club comprising a circumferentially distendable sleeve of resilient material and means to prevent longitudinal distention of such sleeve.

2. A grip guide for a golf club comprising a circumferentially distendable sleeve of resilient material and means embedded in said material for preventing longitudinal distention of such sleeve.

3. A grip guide for a golf club comprising a circumferentially distendable sleeve of resilient material and inelastic means longitudinally embedded in said material for preventing distention of said sleeve in an axial direction.

4. A grip guide for a golf club comprising a circumferentially distendable sleeve of resilient material and strands of inelastic material longitudinally embedded in the walls of said sleeve for preventing distention of the same in an axial direction.

5. A grip guide for a golf club comprising a circumferentially distendable tapered sleeve of resilient material, and a series of longitudinally disposed strands of inelastic material embedded within the interior walls of said sleeve for preventing distention of the same in an axial direction.

6. A grip guide for a golf club comprising a circumferentially distendable sleeve of resilient material having an impression of the hands formed therein, and inelastic means embedded in said sleeve for preventing longitudinal distention of the same.

7. A grip guide for a golf club comprising a circumferentially distendable sleeve of resilient material having finger and thumb locating seats formed therein, and strands of inelastic material longitudinally embedded in the walls of said sleeve for preventing distention of the same in an axial direction.

8. In combination with a golf club, of a sleeve of resilient material exteriorly fashioned to guide the fingers and thumbs of the player into the correct playing position, and a detachable elongated tapered ferrule frictionally engageable throughout its length with said sleeve for positively clamping the latter to the shaft.

9. In combination with a golf club, of a sleeve of resilient material exteriorly fashioned to guide the fingers and thumbs of the player into the correct playing position and having an exteriorly reduced and tapered inner terminal portion formed thereon and a detachable elongated tapered ferrule frictionally engageable throughout its length with said portion for positively clamping the sleeve to the shaft.

10. In combination with the handhold portion of a golf club shaft, of a detachable tapered sleeve of resilient material exteriorly fashioned to conform to the hands of the player and having an exteriorly reduced and tapered inner terminal portion formed thereon, and a detachable elongated tapered ferrule frictionally engageable throughout its length with said portion for positively locking the sleeve to the shaft.

11. In combination with the handhold portion of a golf club shaft, of a sleeve of resilient material exteriorly fashioned to conform to the hands of the player, a detachable elongated tapered ferrule frictionally engageable throughout its length with the inner terminal portion of said sleeve for

positively locking the same to the shaft, and a cap fixedly secured to said shaft and enclosing the outer end of said sleeve.

12. In combination with a golf club, of a circumferentially distendable sleeve of resilient material exteriorly fashioned to conform to the hands of the player, means to prevent longitudinal distention of said sleeve, and a detachable elongated tapered ferrule frictionally engageable throughout its length with the inner terminal portion of the sleeve for positively locking the latter to the club.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.

CRAIG McCULLOUGH.